

Georgia Substance Abuse Statistics

Health Behaviors Among Georgia Youth: A Decade of Change, 1993 and 2003

In an effort to monitor and prioritize health-risk behavior that puts Georgia's youth at-risk for the leading causes of morbidity, mortality, and social problems, the Georgia Department of Education and Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, conducted two statewide surveys from a random sample of public high schools. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was carried out in 1993 by the Georgia Department of Education. The Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) was carried out in 2003 by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, in collaboration with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases and the Georgia Department of Education. Topics covered in the YRBS and GSHS include unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; dietary behaviors; and physical activity. The report compares the results of the 1993 YRBS and to those of the 2003 GSHS.

Notable positive trends emerged from 1993 to 2003, including:

- A significant decrease in the percentage of high school students who rode in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol from 36% to 24%.
- A significant decline in the percentage of students who smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13 from 27% to 19%.
- A significant decrease in the percentage of 9th grade students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days in their life from 71% to 63%.
- A significant decline in the percentage of African-American students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days from 38% to 27%.

The full report can be found at the following address:

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/cdiee/comparativereport.0304.pdf>

Georgia Student Health Survey 2003

The Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) was carried out in 2003 by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, in collaboration with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases and the Georgia Department of Education. Topics covered in the GSHS include unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; dietary behaviors; and physical activity. By monitoring these behaviors, Georgia can assess the overall progress of programs and policies to reduce the percentage of youth who are at-risk for developing what are, by and large, preventable health problems.

Compared to high school students nationwide, Georgia high school students generally are more likely to report healthy behaviors in the areas of injury prevention and tobacco, alcohol, and the use of other substances.

In comparison to US past 30 day behavior, significantly fewer Georgia high school students:

	GA	US
- rode in a car driven by a driver who had been drinking alcohol	24.0%	30.7%
- drove a car after drinking alcohol	8.3%	13.3%
- smoked cigarettes on one or more days	20.9%	28.5%
- used any form of tobacco on one or more days	26.1%	33.9%
- had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days	37.7%	47.1%
- had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row on one or more days	19.8%	29.9%
- used marijuana on one or more days	19.5%	23.9%
- used inhalants on one or more days	3.1%	4.7%

The full report can be found at the following address:

<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/cdiee/gshsreport.0304.pdf>

State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

This report is the first presenting State estimates from the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), formerly called the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). The survey, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), collects information from residents of households, residents of noninstitutionalized group quarters, and civilians living on military bases. In 2002, NSDUH collected interview data from approximately 68,000 respondents. Estimates for all persons aged 12 or older are provided for 20 different measures related to substance use or mental health. For each measure, States have been ranked and categorized into quintiles, or fifths, in order to simplify the discussion.

The following are Georgia specific highlights from the NSDUH.

- Georgia was in the lowest fifth of all States for current use of marijuana among persons aged 12 or older.
- Georgia was one of the ten States indicating the highest perceived risk of occasional marijuana use among persons aged 12 or older.
- Georgia was one of eight states reporting the lowest percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 who reported use of any illicit drug, other than marijuana, during the past month.
- Georgia was one of ten states reporting the lowest percentage of persons aged 18 to 25 who reported use of alcohol during the past month.
- Georgia was one of nine states reporting the lowest percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 who reported binge use of alcohol during the past month.

The full report can be found at the following address:

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k2State/PDFW/2k2SAEW.pdf>